

Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
7:00 p.m. Worship



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music	“Christmas Time Is Here” (Vince Guaraldi)	House Band
Call to Worship		Jennifer Tripoli
Song	“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”	
Welcome		Jeff Nelson
Lighting of the Christ Candle	“Christ, Be Our Light” (verse 5 and refrain)	The Michalak Family
Time of Prayer		Nicole Wilson
Old Testament Reading*	Isaiah 62:6-12	Maria Moro
Song	“The First Noel”	
Epistle Reading*	Titus 3:4-7	
Invitation to Offering		
Musical Offering	“Away in a Manger”	Kirsten & Hannah Williams
Doxology	Advent & Christmas Doxology (What Child is This?)	
Gospel Reading*	Luke 2:1-20	
Message	“Once Upon a Time”	Jeff Nelson
Service of Candlelight		
Song	“Silent Night”	
Benediction		
Sending Forth	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”	

ANNOUNCEMENTS



JOIN US LATER TONIGHT FOR MORE OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

9:00 p.m.---Traditional Service

Traditional Christmas Eve worship service featuring Sanctus Choir, organ, and a woodwind quartet. A service of candlelight will conclude our worship. We will be in the Sanctuary and livestreaming the service on YouTube and Facebook.

11:00 p.m.---Outside Service

Join us outside on our front lawn for a simple, yet Holy worship experience in the dark of night as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A service of candlelight will be included.



ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10AM ON DECEMBER 28 AND JANUARY 4

We will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. on both Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4. There will also be no Sunday School on either of those days. The nursery will be open. We will return to two services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) on Sunday, January 11.

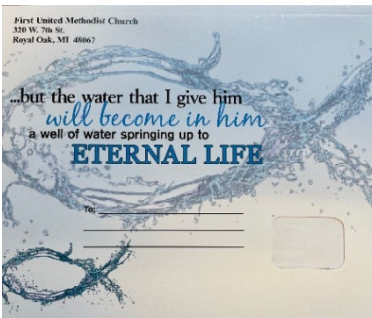
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Church Office Holiday Hours

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. The office will also have reduced hours on Wednesday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you need assistance during this time, please feel free to leave a voicemail or send an email, and our team will respond when the office reopens.



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

2026 Royal Oak First offering envelopes are now available for you to pick up at the Welcome Desk! If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, we'll begin mailing them out after January 12. Contact Karen Calhoun at kcalhoun@rofum.org or 248.541.4100 if you have any questions.



FAMILY SHELTER MEALS (DINNER HELP)

The Royal Oak First Missions Team is partnering with “Kids Empowered: On the Move” to provide meals at a new family shelter this winter in Pontiac. Our church is sponsoring meals one week each month



throughout the winter. We need help prepping the food on Sundays, heating the food at church each evening, transporting it to the shelter, and serving the meal. Please sign up by scanning the QR code.

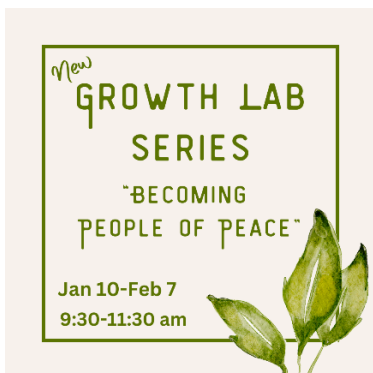
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SAVE THE DATE!

SPAGHETTI DINNER VARIETY SHOW

On Sunday, February 1 the Music Guild will be putting on a Spaghetti Dinner Variety Show! Proceeds will help our youth go to camp this summer. The opportunity to showcase your talents will be open to all, so stay tuned for details. Plan to come join the fun on Sunday, February 1!



5-WEEK GROWTH LAB SERIES

What if choosing peace was a practical skill you could develop? Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, but in a divided world, how do we actually live that out? Join us for five sessions (Saturday mornings, January 10-February 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m., led by Nicole Wilson) exploring concrete tools to respond with curiosity instead of judgment. We'll practice asking better questions in difficult conversations, understand how our positions developed, and strengthen connections even when we disagree. Whether navigating family tensions, workplace conflicts, or simply wanting to grow in Christ-like love, this 5-week workshop offers a space to practice new patterns together. Scan the QR code to sign up.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Everyone at Royal Oak First wishes you a very Merry Christmas! "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all." Luke 2:14

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayers for Our Church Family:

Paul Thompson • Bill Bond • Bill Courtney • Craig Sleeman • Karen Porter •
Cattran Family • Laci Basel • Tom Soboleski • Carrie Morse • DJ Hinman •
Phil Button • Bernice Sayers • Joyce Negrich • Patti Peterson • Keith Messing •
Mark Thatcher • Janice Marsh • Dennis Allen • Ann Anderson •

Prayers for Our Extended Family:

Margie Reese • Susie Inch • Mark Hall • Sarah Hughes • Carol • Joan •
Carolyn Aucchio • Gina Novak • Holly Hempstead • Susie Wilkinson •
Reefe Renforth • Raedea Wagner • Joe Bridge • Bernice Graham •
Elma Holloway • Amanda Lewandowski • Karen Cunningham •

Sympathies to:

The family and friends of member Allen Pollard on his death on December 22, 2025
Deb Schultz on the death of her nephew, Lawrey Edwards on December 19, 2025

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please contact Danielle Moody at prayers@rofum.org.*



TIME OF PRAYER

All are welcome to the Time of Prayer on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at church. We review the church prayer list, spend time in silence and pray together in the Sanctuary. This is wonderful opportunity to uplift your personal prayer requests.

Poinsettias Decorating Our Sanctuary



In Memory of

Given by

Jim Backes	The Backes Family
Harry and Estelle Knoy	The Brennan Family
John L. Buxton	Cheryl and Rick Buxton
Charles and Christine Jones.....	Cheryl and Rick Buxton
Jim and Marie Dunstan.....	Jay and Patty Dunstan
Charlie McCormick	Julia Filipp and Family
Marvin and Delphine Frey	Mike and Colleen Frey
Diego Garcia	The Garcia Family
Linda Pollard	The Garcia Family
Gerald Gibson	Richard, Diane, Andrew, and Aidan
Keith and Audrey Leenhouts	Bill, Jim, and Kathy Leenhouts
Georgia and Jim	Roger and Sue Lynn
Dorothy Matsumoto.....	Mike and Jan Matsumoto
Deceased members of the Moore/Sorchilla family.....	Kristine Moore
Dennis and Kathy Nelson.....	Jeff, Bridget, Casey, and Sam Nelson
Dorothea J. Renforth	Ren Renforth
Floyd and Marjorie Showers.....	Andy, Kory, Reese, and Olivia Showers
George and Kathleen Bethel	Andy, Kory, Reese, and Olivia Showers
Phyllis Brittain.....	Andy, Kory, Reese, and Olivia Showers
Paul Edward.....	The Tripoli family
Joseph Tripoli.....	The Tripoli family
Zola Webster	The Webster-Miller Family
Wayne and Shirley Wells	The Wells Family
Mary June Wilkinson	Todd and Julie Wells Family
Sara Gillette	Robin Whitcroft and April Coons
Charles A. and Audrey Donnelly	Jim and Linda Wilson
Reed and Helen Wilson	Jim and Linda Wilson

In Honor of

Given by

Mike and Chris Stempien	Mike and Colleen Frey
Bev and Jim Miller	The Miller Family
Kay and Joe Nowaczok	The Miller Family
The Kempanien Family	Michelle Miller
The Miller Family	Mary Murawski
Phyllis Hassberger	The Plaxton Family
The Musicians of Royal Oak First.....	Michael Rosas

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Beloved Community,

Welcome to Christmas Eve at Royal Oak First!

We are genuinely thrilled that you are here with us tonight.

For many of you, this is your cherished church home, filled with the warmth of memories that span years of traditions. Each candlelit service, each note of familiar carols, brings a wave of nostalgia and joy. For others, perhaps this is your annual pilgrimage to "Christmas Church," a sacred space where you come to glimpse the profound truth that God is truly with us, no matter the year. And for some of you, this may be your very first visit, drawn in by the magnetic spirit of the season, eager to find connection with Christ and this wonderful community. Whatever it is that brought you here tonight, know that you are welcome!

As we gather in this holy space, I want to extend an invitation to participate in our Christmas offering. Royal Oak First plays a vital role in providing care and community for our unhoused and hungry neighbors. This year, we were blessed to serve nearly 15,000 meals, distribute thousands of pieces of clothing (especially those warm winter jackets and cozy socks during these cold days), and offer vital services like showers and laundry. We even keep the mail for those who have no permanent address. Your generous offerings tonight are essential in helping us continue this work and make Christmas a reality for many months to come. If you are able to contribute a special Christmas gift, know that it will go directly toward feeding and supporting our vulnerable neighbors. You can give as the offering plates pass by, or you can text to give at this number: 855-566-0093.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, I pray that you leave here tonight filled with the assurance that God is indeed with us, inspiring us to make a difference that extends far beyond this day. Together, let's shine the light of hope and love into our community and beyond.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with a cross inside it.

Pastor Jeff Nelson